

May 16, 1950.

Prof. E. L. Tatum,
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California.

Dear Ed:

Thanks very much for your endorsement of the reprinting project. We will now be able to go ahead with a brief survey to estimate the demand, from which the UW press can figure out just how large a volume can be made up at a reasonable price. You will doubtless receive one of the questionnaires. So far, the only difficulty that has come up has arisen with Winge. His work is all still in print, and under copyright by his publishers, and is thus unavailable, but everyone else has very generously and (I hope) capably agreed to cooperate.

We will be driving West, and taking our time on the way, to arrive at Berkeley about July 30. We hope to see a good deal of you in August. If enough progress on the reprinting has been made, I hope you will have time to criticize the projected contents. I know how terribly busy you must be these days with the NIH, NRC and so on.

Rumors travel pretty fast (e.g. re Chicago) but aren't always strictly accurate. Chicago did indeed make a very generous bid, especially attractive for the spacious quarters in a new building, and I was very much tempted on those grounds to take it up. Wisconsin did not make any counter-offer, and there were no negotiations on that basis. One of my reasons for staying was that UW has been doing everything I could reasonably expect it to without any such pressure, a relationship I would not want to alter. The affair seems to have been misinterpreted, however, by quite a few spectators: I have had a few cautious approaches from people who thought that UW must have made such an outstanding counteroffer that I could not be pried loose from here. That isn't quite true, and I would certainly be interested in knowing of opportunities in other places, although we are very happy here. But if I try to explain this, there will probably develop a counter-rumor that I want to leave here.

To close with a rumor, I heard that Monod has gotten out a pre-lactase from unadapted coli, identified serologically. The enclosed crystals are NaCl.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg